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Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 COME-00 INT-05
NSF-01 /057 W
----------080796 070543Z /10
R 061428Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9503

S E C R E T NAIROBI 8429

MOGADISCIO FOR AMBASSADOR LOUGHRAN

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, US, SO
SUBJ: OCEANOGRAPHIC ACTIVITIES OFF THE SOMALI COAST

1. AS YOU MAY KNOW, U.S. NAVY OCEANOGRAPHIC SHIPS HAVE BEEN OPERATING IN THE INDIAN OCEAN FOR THE PAST FEW MONTHS, AND ONE SUCH SHIP (USNS WILKES) IS VISITING MOMBASA UNTIL JULY 7. AN EMBASSY OFFICER VISITING THE SHIP ON JULY 3 LEARNED FROM THE MASTER OF THE VESSEL THAT HE HAD MORE THAN ONCE BEEN PRESSED BY THE OCEANOGRAPHERS ON BOARD TO BRING HIS SHIP INTO CLAIMED SOMALI TERRITORIAL WATERS (I.E., WITHIN 200-MILE LIMIT) BUT HE HAD SO FAR RESISTED SUCH PRESSURES. NOW, HOWEVER, HE HAD RECEIVED A MEMO DATED JUNE 20 FROM THE NAVAL OCEANOGRAPHIC OFFICE IN WASHINGTON STATING THAT THIS QUESTION HAD BEEN CHECKED OUT WITH THE DESK OFFICER IN JCS, AND THAT THE U.S. DID NOT RECOGNIZE THE 200-MILE LIMIT. HOWEVER, MEMO SAID, IN ORDER TO AVOID INCIDENTS, USN SHIPS ARE ADVISED TO STAY AT LEAST 75 MILES FROM THE COAST. MASTER EXPECTS THAT THIS MEMO WILL GIVE RISE TO NEW PRESSURE FROM OCEANOGRAPHERS TO GO INSIDE 200-MILE LIMIT.

2. WHILE THE ADVICE GIVEN BY JCS IS UNDOUBTEDLY STANDARD,
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IT WAS PROBABLY DEVELOPED TO APPLY TO NAVIGATION OF WARSHIPS OFF THE COAST OF SOMALIA, MOST OF WHICH ARE CAPABLE OF 40 KNOTS AND ARE GENERALLY IN TRANSIT. THE ACTIVITIES OF THE WILKES GO WELL BEYOND NAVIGATION, SINCE THEY INCLUDE TAKING CORE SAMPLES FROM THE SEABED, LOWERING SONOBUOYS, SETTING OFF DEPTH CHARGES, ETC. THESE ACTIVITIES IMPINGE ON BOTH COASTAL DEFENSE AND INVESTIGATION OF ECONOMIC

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RESOURCES; THEY REQUIRE LYING AT ANCHOR FOR UP TO 12 HOURS
AND ARE EASILY DETECTED. THE MASTER OF THE USNS WILKES
(WHO TURNED OVER HIS COMMAND TO A NEW MASTER ON 4 JULY)
HAS BEEN CONCERNED THAT SOMALIA'S FST COASTAL PATROL BOATS
COULD SEIZE THE SHIP (MAXIMUM SPEED 12 KNOTS) AND ITS
CREW, A LA PUEBLO.

3. I AM BRINGING THIS TO YOUR ATTENTION IN CASE YOU ARE NOT
FULLY APPRISED OF THE COMPLETE RANGE OF RESEARCH ACTIVITIES
UNDERTAKEN BY THE WILKES AND THE SPECIAL RISKS THAT MIGHT
BE INVOLVED PARTICULARLY AT THIS TIME.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH, TWO HUNDRED MILE LIMIT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OCEANOGRAPHIC ACTIVITIES OFF THE SOMALI COAST
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